

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Patent Public Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting

International Update

Mark R. Powell

Deputy Commissioner for International Patent Cooperation

March 2, 2017

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



A detailed technical drawing of a mechanical assembly, likely a piston and crank mechanism, rendered in a light gray line-art style. The drawing includes various numbered callouts (e.g., 18, 80, 22, 26, 68, 40, 36, 34, 32, 52, 84, 86, 82) pointing to different components and features. The drawing is set against a dark blue background that has a wavy, torn-paper-like edge at the top and bottom.

Access to Relevant Prior Art

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Project Background

- Study how the USPTO can increase examination efficiency and quality by leveraging electronic resources to retrieve information (prior art, search reports, etc.) from applicant's other applications.
- Explore whether or not automatically importing relevant prior art into the US application file at the earliest point in examination would reduce the burden of duty of disclosure for applicants.
- Consider if patent issuance can be streamlined by eliminating unnecessary information from first page of patent.

Anticipated Benefits

- Quality and efficiency of examination is increased
- Examiner access to relevant prior art and supplemental information in a conveniently searchable manner
- Decreased applicant expense of submitting information and information disclosure statements
- Reduced burden for applicant compliance with duty to disclose information material to patentability

FY 2017 Project Update

- Request for Written Comment Period Ended – October 28, 2016
- Application Case Studies – 2nd Quarter FY 17
- Examiners Focus Sessions – Beginning in 2nd Quarter FY 17
- Gathering and Refining Business Requirements – Ongoing
- Developing Business Solution – 4th Quarter FY 17

What Have We Been Hearing?

- Overall, positive comments and feedback
- In addition to related US and counterpart foreign applications, interest in having the USPTO monitor:
 - Applications related through a priority/benefit claim (patent family members)
 - Applications with the same or substantially similar disclosures
 - Applications with common inventorship/ownership
- Regarding the system and how it would be controlled:
 - Some interest in a fully automated system
 - Most interest in a Hybrid System – automated for a certain scope of applications while permitting applicants/examiners to identify additional applications

Prior Art Access Contacts

E-mail: PriorArtAccess@USPTO.gov

Michael Neas

Deputy Director, International Patent Legal Administration

571-272-3289

Michael.Neas@USPTO.gov

Jessica Patterson

Program Manager, Office of International Patent Cooperation

571-272-8828

Jessica.Patterson@USPTO.gov

uspto

Questions and Comments

Mark R. Powell

Deputy Commissioner for International Patent
Cooperation

(571) 272-8800

Mark.Powell@USPTO.GOV

uspto

